

## ABSTRACT

A birefringent film with excellent uniformity in in-plane retardation, retardation in the thickness direction, and alignment axis is provided. The  
 5 birefringent film is produced in such a manner that, in the step of stretching a polymer film, the polymer film is stretched in a width direction while being shrunk in a longitudinal direction, and assuming that lengths in the width direction and the longitudinal direction of the polymer film before being stretched are 1, a change ratio (STD) of the length in the width direction of  
 10 the polymer film resulting from the stretching and a change ratio (SMD) of the length in the longitudinal direction of the polymer film resulting from the shrinking satisfy the following formula (1).

$$(1/STD)^{1/2} \leq SMD < 1 \quad \dots (1)$$